

**From:** suzerain.studios  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/14/01 2:18am  
**Subject:** Settlement Proposal Comments

To whom it may concern:

As an American citizen who relies on computers for his everyday life, and for putting bread on my table, I'm extremely concerned about the proposed settlement proposal in the Microsoft antitrust case. It doesn't even begin to address the ethical breaches of repeatedly building from antitrust status to promote future product exposure.

Microsoft is in a dangerous position where they could become more powerful than any single company, individual or country in history. Why? They are the leaders in an industry that is rapidly controlling more and more of everyday human life. Computers store DNA records, medical records, salary information, credit card data, and so on. Further, the network between computers is rapidly becoming the most important communications infrastructure between people. Communications lies at the heart of what makes a society able to function.

If any one entity gains control of the communications infrastructure, it will mean bad things for ordinary citizens.

Any Microsoft settlement must do a few things:

- (1) Prevent them from repeating the same ethical misgivings in future universes (i.e., networking protocols, networking software)
- (2) Punish them for moving to keep people from technologies they wanted (Netscape's browser, QuickTime, etc.), for stifling the development of open protocols which would ease development of online product.

Therefore, I am disheartened, and would like to see the following:

- (1) Any future networking protocols that Microsoft develops must be governed by truly open, multinational and multicorporate standards bodies which can keep the specifics of communication open for developers.
- (2) A "fine" of enough to affect the company (i.e., in the billions). I think the money should be paid back to an entity that helps the very consumers they have adversely affected with their anticompetitive behavior (perhaps to fight hunger, or help people, or assist schools with getting the technology they wish to purchase).

Cheers,

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